

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 041793

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. GREECE: ARMED FORCES ON ALERT

THE GREEK ARMED FORCES AND GENDARMERIE WERE PLACED ON FULL ALERT YESTERDAY. IN AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT, THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE DECLARED:

--THE ALERT WAS IN RESPONSE TO "CONSPIRATORIAL MOVEMENTS OF A FEW UNREPENTANT PEOPLE...LINKED WITH THE LEADERS OF THE DICTATORSHIP NOW UNDER ARREST."

--THE ARMED FORCES HAVE TAKEN "PRE-EMPTIVE MEASURES" AND WILL STRIKE AT ANYONE "WHO DEVIATES FROM THE ROAD OF DUTY AND HONOR."

IN A CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR KUBISCH, DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF STATED:

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--THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN CERTAIN PRECAUTIONS AGAINST
"CRAZY YOUNG ARMY OFFICERS", BUT

--THE "IMPLIED PLOTTING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD
NOT BE TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY." (SECRET) ATHENS 1521,
2/24.

2. SYRIA: TRYING TO OUTFLANK EGYPT

KHADDAM HAS BEEN AIRBORNE PRACTICALLY CONTINUOUSLY SINCE THE
SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE, CARRYING MESSAGES FROM ASAD TO
VARIOUS ARAB LEADERS. THE PURPOSE SEEMS TO BE TO INCREASE
ARAB PRESSURE ON EGYPT.

--HOWEVER, THE SYRIANS HAVE NOT SOUGHT RAPPROCHEMENT
WITH IRAQ NOR SHIFTED TOWARD THE REJECTIONISTS TO BLOCK
AN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI ACCORD.

--INSTEAD, THEY APPEAR TO BE TRYING TO LINE UP ARAB
ALLIES BEHIND THEM TO MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR EGYPT TO
CONCLUDE A BILATERAL AGREEMENT, AND TO GET AS MUCH AS
POSSIBLE FOR THEMSELVES AND THE PLO OUT OF THE UPCOMING
NEGOTIATIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) DAMASCUS 682, 2/24. KISSINGER
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